

the University of Miami; Care Resource; Pridelines; Jackson Hospital; and all who are in the fight against this global menace.

United, and through greater awareness, research, prevention, and treatment, we will save and improve countless lives and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL DEVICES CENTER

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great example of the academic and business communities working together to create new lifesaving technologies.

The Medical Devices Center at the University of Minnesota is a shining example of what can happen when innovation is encouraged and sought out by an educational institution and aided by partnership.

Last week I visited the University's Medical Devices Center and learned about this unique program that focuses on development of devices that have the strongest lifesaving impacts, partnering with others to also bring these products to market in the fastest manner possible. And you know what? The results speak for themselves.

From just 1 year in the fellowship program, we've had 15 new provisional patents, 12 new available technologies, one licensing deal with a local business, and one new startup among the program's fellows.

The center's collaborative approach between academics and business makes this a valuable program as well as a model for both Minnesota and the entire Nation to follow.

#### THE PROTRACTED WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, as we await the President's speech regarding Afghanistan, there's a point that I wanted to make; and as is so often the case, that point is better made by somebody else. So I yield to Chinese General Sun Tzu, who wrote the following words 2,500 years ago:

"In war victory should be swift.

"If victory is slow, men tire, morale sags. Sieges exhaust strength; protracted campaigns strain the public treasury.

"If men are tired, morale low, strength exhausted, treasure spent, then the feudal lords will exploit the disarray and attack. This even the wisest will be powerless to mend.

"I have heard that in war, haste can be folly. But never have I seen a delay that was wise.

"No nation has ever benefited from a protracted war."

Mr. Speaker, that was true 2,500 years ago, and it's true today. We do not benefit from the protracted war in Afghanistan.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH REGARDING AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President is going to say in his speech, and I just got part of it, that his sending 30,000 American troops over there is a step in the right direction for stabilizing Afghanistan. But then he goes on and he says it will allow us to begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan in July of 2011.

The one thing that you should never do is telegraph your punch. I can't imagine why the President is saying in his speech tonight he's going to start withdrawing our troops in July of 2011. Even if he plans to do that, he shouldn't say it, because he's telling our enemies exactly what we're going to do, and it's just wrong. And every military officer I have ever met will tell you the same thing.

#### NATIONAL MEDAL AWARD FOR STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the Stark County District Library, located in Canton, Ohio.

On October 6, 2009, the Institute of Museum and Library Science selected the Stark County District Library to receive the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This is the Nation's highest recognition for library excellence and service to the surrounding community.

The Stark County District Library has served our county for 125 years, and the staff there set a fine example of leadership throughout that time by responding to the changing needs of our community. I know firsthand the friendly faces that fill the library and the great lengths to which the staff goes to provide resources for our community.

Despite budget cuts and other economic hardships, the Stark County District Library maintains the highest quality of service, making sure our communities have access to materials they want and need. Through early literacy efforts for mothers and their children and theater programs for Stark County kids and employment assistance classes and job fairs, the district library is able to fulfill its mission of inspiring ideas, enriching lives, and creating a stronger community.

This national medal confirms the Stark County District Library's commitment to our community.

#### WORLD AIDS DAY AND AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge today, December 1, as World AIDS Day when all of us focus on that devastating disease. I'd like to pay a special tribute to the Thomas Street Clinic in Houston, Texas, that for decades has served the hopeless and sometimes the helpless. I am so very glad that they are giving people life and opportunity.

Thank you, Thomas Street Clinic. And I was delighted to introduce legislation in support of them.

Mr. Speaker, on another topic very quickly, let me suggest that the President has been deliberative and thoughtful. It is interesting that those who criticize created the devastation and the havoc that is going on now in Afghanistan by taking away from our focus on Afghanistan after 9/11 and focusing on Iraq, a distracting war. Yet we love those who served, and we mourn for those we have lost.

We now want not to mourn for more. We want to find a way that we can introduce diplomacy, democracy, and getting the Government in Afghanistan to take care of its own people.

This is a war of insurgents. This is a civil war. And, therefore, we must find a way to handle this in a manner that serves all.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS OFFER A BETTER PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will talk to the American people about Afghanistan tonight. He is expected to announce a major new escalation of the conflict. I believe President Obama's apparent decision to send tens of thousands more troops to Afghanistan is a mistake, and I believe that because the past years have taught us that there is no military solution to Afghanistan. That's why I've urged the President to change our mission and to emphasize diplomacy, economic development and humanitarian aid as the best way to stop violent extremism in Afghanistan.

As a Californian, I'm proud to say that the California Democratic Party has passed a resolution that also urges President Obama to change course in Afghanistan. I want to recognize, and I want to thank my friends at the Progressive Democrats of America and the